



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

Orchard Beach Bronx, New York Shore Protection Project

FACT SHEET

DESCRIPTION: Orchard Beach is located in Pelham Bay Park on the northeast shore of the Borough of the Bronx, New York, at the western end of Long Island Sound. Orchard Beach is an artificial beach constructed by the City of New York between 1935 and 1937. The beach is crescent-shaped, approximately 400 feet wide and one mile long, and constructed across Pelham Bay, which connects Hunter Island and Rodman's Neck.

AUTHORIZATION: Section 309 (e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 and Section 554 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996.

STATUS: Erosion of the shoreline has reduced the size of the recreational beach, causing severe overcrowding of the facility. Also, an uneven beach slope has resulted in a dangerous drop-off zone posing a hazard to bathers. In addition, the loss of beach width has increased the potential for storm damage to the municipal beach facilities, including a concrete promenade that spans the length of the beach. A limited re-analysis report prepared in March 1992 concluded that the plan recommended in a previous report dated November 1985, which proposed beachfill with periodic nourishment within the problem area, was still economically feasible. However, as the majority of benefits were recreational and therefore not considered to be high priority benefits, further study could not be recommended. A study and project that will focus on restoring the recreational beach and reducing erosion was authorized by Section 554 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 at a maximum Federal cost of \$5,200,000. The study will be conducted and funded jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), who is acting as the non-federal sponsor. The NYSDEC is joined in this effort by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, which owns and manages Pelham Bay Park. A cost-sharing Design Agreement to conduct the design effort, which includes the study and plans and specifications, was executed between the USACE and NYSDEC on December 20, 2000. The study was initiated in January 2001. A draft report with environmental assessment was released for public review in September 2002. The completion of the final report is scheduled for October 2004. If funds are available, the plans and specifications for the construction contract will be prepared in FY 2005.

TOTAL DESIGN COST: The design effort includes a report that will summarize the findings of the study and the preparation of plans and specifications for construction. The total cost of the design is currently estimated to be approximately \$840,000, with cost sharing at 75% Federal (\$630,000) and 25% non-Federal (\$210,000).

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